

COUNTRY DATA: NIGERIA: Information from the CIA World Factbook

INTRODUCTION

British influence and control over what would become Nigeria and Africa's most populous country grew through the 19th century. A series of constitutions after World War II granted Nigeria greater autonomy; independence came in 1960. Following nearly 16 years of military rule, a new constitution was adopted in 1999, and a peaceful transition to civilian government was completed. The government continues to face the daunting task of reforming a petroleum-based economy, whose revenues have been squandered through corruption and mismanagement, and institutionalizing democracy. In addition, Nigeria continues to experience longstanding ethnic and religious tensions. Although both the 2003 and 2007 presidential elections were marred by significant irregularities and violence, Nigeria is currently experiencing its longest period of civilian rule since independence. The general elections of April 2007 marked the first civilian-to-civilian transfer of power in the country's history. In January 2010, Nigeria assumed a nonpermanent seat on the UN Security Council for the 2010-11 term.

GEOGRAPHY

Location	Western Africa, bordering the Gulf of Guinea, between Benin and Cameroon
Area	923,768 sq km
Climate	varies; equatorial in south, tropical in center, arid in north
Natural Resources	natural gas, petroleum, tin, iron ore, coal, limestone, niobium, lead, zinc, arable land
Total Renewable Water Resources	286.2 cu km (2003)
Freshwater Withdrawal	total: 8.01 cu km/yr (21%/10%/69%) per capita: 61 cu m/yr (2000)
Natural Hazards	periodic droughts; flooding
Environmental Issues	soil degradation; rapid deforestation; urban air and water pollution; desertification; oil pollution - water, air, and soil; has suffered serious damage from oil spills; loss of arable land; rapid urbanization

PEOPLE

Population	152,217,341
Ethnic Groups	Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, is composed of more than 250 ethnic groups; the following are the most populous and politically influential: Hausa and Fulani 29%, Yoruba 21%, Igbo (Ibo) 18%, Ijaw 10%, Kanuri 4%, Ibibio 3.5%, Tiv 2.5%
Religions	Muslim 50%, Christian 40%, indigenous beliefs 10%
Languages	English (official), Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo (Ibo), Fulani
Literacy Rate	68%
Major Infectious Diseases	<p>degree of risk: very high</p> <p>food or waterborne diseases: bacterial and protozoal diarrhea, hepatitis A and E, and typhoid fever</p> <p>vectorborne disease: malaria and yellow fever</p> <p>respiratory disease: meningococcal meningitis</p> <p>aerosolized dust or soil contact disease: one of the most highly endemic areas for Lassa fever</p> <p>water contact disease: leptospirosis and schistosomiasis</p> <p>animal contact disease: rabies</p> <p>note: highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza has been identified in this country; it poses a negligible risk with extremely rare cases possible among US citizens who have close contact with birds (2009)</p>
GOVERNMENT	
Type	federal republic
Independence	1 October 1960 (from the UK)
Constitution	adopted 5 May 1999; effective 29 May 1999
Legal System	based on English common law, Islamic law (in 12 northern states), and traditional law; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations
ECONOMY	
Agricultural Products	cocoa, peanuts, cotton, palm oil, corn, rice, sorghum, millet, cassava (tapioca), yams, rubber; cattle, sheep, goats, pigs; timber; fish
Industries	crude oil, coal, tin, columbite; rubber products, wood; hides and skins, textiles, cement and other construction materials, food products, footwear, chemicals, fertilizer, printing, ceramics, steel
Import commodities	machinery, chemicals, transport equipment, manufactured goods, food and live animals

Import Partners	China 14.89%, US 8.88%, Netherlands 8.18%, South Korea 5.46%, UK 4.63%, France 4.19% (2009)
Export Commodities	petroleum and petroleum products 95%, cocoa, rubber
Export Partners	US 35.08%, India 10.43%, Brazil 9.32%, Spain 7.19%, France 4.65% (2009)
Per Capita GDP	\$2,300 (2009 est.)
Population below poverty line	70% (2007 est.)

*CITATIONS: All information included above is extracted from the CIA World Factbook except where noted.